**TDSB Task Force on the success of Students of Somali Descent**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday September 17th 2013**

| Time: 6:00PM |
| Location: 5050 Yonge Street – Boardroom |

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Ali M, Trustee M. Rodrigues, Jim S, Fatouma Ahmed, Abukar Amudi, Mohamed Abdullahi, 4CSW visiting

**Regrets:**

**Minute Taker:** Munira Abukar (for this meeting taking over Zahra Hassan)

**AGENDA ITEMS**

1. **Dinner**

2. **Welcome**
   - Ali Mohamed chaired the meeting.
   - Meeting called to order at 6:39PM

**Approval of Minutes**

Approved June 18th minutes

Approved July 31st minutes

Approved 31st minutes – trustee Rodrigues sent her regrets

Sept 26, 2012 – background context, wanted to have a taskforce, trustees wanted a few months later

Alis (co-chairs comments)

Jim took time to meet with a parent who came in

Mohamed Haji Nur (lost because he went to Middle East for a job with Canadian schools) Abdi – went to Yale

Fatouma - labeling within the Somali community
Ali – people with personal vendettas, not really issue with labeling

Looking at supporting families when there is a murder that TDSB as a school board, have a plaque maybe in hour, there needs to be follow up with school board – family (Trustee R)

Fatouma – reward system (Somali only) – no (but will have sensitive circumstances to Somali children) \(\Rightarrow\) not only Somali recommendations that needs to be conveyed.

Taskforce taking every child’s voice etc. (rumors in the community)

How do we use local media to get rid of issues of miscommunication

More family supports without bans negatives – Trustee Rodrigues

Abdi (CSW) – where’s the age emphasis (young children, middle school, high school (dropouts start in grade 10-11). In the recommendations, look at early prevention and intervention \(<\) model schools aren’t working for everyone because kids are pushed on (without no one drop out at a middle school level) systematic problems in the classroom

Abukar – the child is already sick by the time they drop out of high school, this is why effective intervention and prevention is necessary

Look at identifying factors (EQAO, suspensions, special education with no assessment, streaming)

A: asks everyone (because everyone has a concern)

Trustee M: hearing from Abdi, where do we focus our research, hearing we should have supports across the board, and hire more teachers of Somali descent

Abdi – no hub, lack of resources, language barriers

Munira – train teachers
Ali – make sure our kids go to an effective place of tutoring and mentorship, look at impactful resources

➤ Dropout rate, academic focus, how to empower the parents to have the same expectations for their sons that they would their daughters. A girl knows where her life is headed.

Fatouma – it’s a cultural issue, we need to push TDSB because we also have a responsibility to push for what we want

Trustee R – housing issue (Hastings issue with this ward)

Representation is super important, so is voicing your concern, parenting is something the board is looking to bridge, Somali student conference (discuss having a mentorship program to give the kids a bit of aspiration/again the importance of having teachers of Somali heritage

Seniority – protect old and disabled, how do we get around that (Bill 274) – nepotism in the catholic school board (TDSB looking to hire French)

Khadra – supports Fatouma’s point [Abukar agreed with this]

Amin – integrating grade 8-9 should do that

In respect to easier to find summer jobs (worked FOY)

1st job going into grade 12 (goes to martin grove)

Abukar – parents are the first teacher, capacity building is necessary for our parents (parent engagement office in TDSB)

- Gender violence, gender roles, workshops, education, also look at better

- How do we prepare for an issue within the Somali community, look at special interest
groups, move on and keep on doing what you do

- Interim report ASAP to trustees saying who wand what we are (trustee Rodrigues)

- Taskforce is political

Looking at media (might be costly)

* looking at mobilizing Somali media

Somali is an emotional community

Amin (shocked to hear what’s happening) (done and out of the raid because he had a job. Jim put his heart and soul into making sure 1 had a job (how))

Annalise – challenge with the agenda, communications team. Should low key announce it.

Safia – communications, can understand where the frustrations are coming, utilize your CSW

Letter to trustees/director

Letter to the community → send home with the kids

Trustee Hastings – send email to Haweiyaa’s taskforce contact to let them get down here for the Oct 26th meeting.

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<th>Discuss for the next meeting &amp; the Next Meeting</th>
<th>None were suggested although the board meeting would be in November</th>
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<tr>
<td>Adjourned</td>
<td>The meeting was adjourned by Co-Chair Ali at 8:32pm</td>
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